

a.) Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An agent for treating arthritis which comprises, as active ingredients:

(i) leaves or branch ends of *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino, or an extract of said leaves or branch ends; and

(ii) ~~an amino sugar glucosamine~~ or a salt thereof, ~~or glycosaminoglycan and chondroitin sulfate~~ or a salt thereof, said parts (i) and (ii) being present at a composition ratio of from ~~1:50 to 50:1~~ ~~1:10 to 10:1~~ parts by weight.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The agent for treating arthritis according to claim 1, wherein the *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino is *Hydrangeae Dulcis Folium*.

Claims 4-5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A food or drink, further comprising:

(i) leaves or branch ends of *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino, or an extract of said leaves or branch ends; and

(ii) glucosamine amino sugar or a salt thereof, ~~or glycosaminoglycan and chondroitin sulfate~~ or a salt thereof, said parts (i) and (ii) being present at a composition ratio of from ~~1:50 to 50:1~~ 1:10 to 10:1 parts by weight.

7. (Previously Presented) The food or drink according to claim 6, which is used for of treating arthritis.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) The food or drink according to either of claims 6 or 7, wherein the *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino is Hydrangeae Dulcis Folium.

Claims 10-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method for treating arthritis, which comprises administering to a mammal a composition comprising (i) leaves or

branch ends of *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino or an extract of said leaves or branch ends, and (ii) ~~amino sugar~~ glucosamine or a salt thereof, ~~or~~ glycosaminoglycan and chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof, said parts (i) and (ii) being present at a composition ratio of from ~~1:50 to 50:1~~ 1:10 to 10:1 parts by weight.

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

20. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The method for treating arthritis according to claim 19, wherein the *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino is Hydrangeae Dulcis Folium.

Claims 21-32 (Cancelled).